

A1 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, with the proviso that if A is S or O, B is CR⁹ or if B is S or O, A is CR⁹, i.e. either A or B being different from CR⁹,--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 31 and ending at page 27, line 1, with the following paragraph:

A2 --In the copolymers obtainable by the process of the invention, the molar content of ethylene derived units is generally higher than 40%, and preferably it is between 50% and 99%, and more preferably it is between 80% and 98%.--

A3 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 20 and ending at page 31, line 1, with the following paragraph:

--A 2.5 M solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (24.30 mL, 60.76 mmol) was added dropwise at -20°C to a solution of 15.00 g of 2,3-dibromothiophene (Aldrich, 98%, Mw = 241.94, d = 2.137, 60.76 mmol, *n*-BuLi:2,3-Br₂thiophene = 1:1) in 90 mL of ether. The solution turned from pale yellow to yellow. After 1 h stirring at -20°C, 2.53 mL of ethylformate (Aldrich, 97%, Mw = 74.08, d = 0.917, 30.38 mmol, HCOOEt:2,3-Br₂thiophene = 0.5:1) in 30 mL of ether was added dropwise. During the addition the solution turned from yellow to dark yellow. The reaction mixture was kept at -20°C for 15 min, then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 20 h. The final pale orange suspension was poured at 0°C into acidic water (1.65 g of NH₄Cl in 75 mL of water), the organic layer was separated out and the water layer extracted with ether (3 x 25 mL). The organic layers were collected, dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvents were removed under vacuum at 30-35°C to give an orange oil (9.52 g), which was characterized by GC-MS analysis and ¹H-NMR spectroscopy.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 5 and ending at line 26,

with the following paragraph:

--A 2.5 M solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (21.30 mL, 53.25 mmol) was added dropwise at -50°C to a solution of 8.99 g of 3,3'-dibromo-2,2'-dithienylmethane obtained as above described (20741/69A, Mw = 338.09, 26.59 mmol) in 75 mL of ether under nitrogen atmosphere in a 250 mL flask. After 1 h stirring at -50°C, the dark brown dilithium suspension was added slowly to a suspension of 7.26 g of CuCl₂ (Aldrich, 98%, Mw = 134.45, 52.92 mmol) in 50 mL of Et₂O. The reaction mixture was kept at -50°C for 30 min, allowed to warm to -20°C in 2 h 30 min and then allowed to reach 0°C in few minutes. Aliquots were taken after 30 min at -50°C, at -20°C and after 1 h at 0°C to follow the reaction state by GC-MS analysis. It appeared that the CuCl₂ induced coupling reaction starts at -50°C but proceeds slowly until 0°C. Only 10% wt. of 7H-cyclopenta[2,1-b:4,3-b']dithiophene was formed after 1h at 0°C. After keeping at 0°C for 1 h 30 min, the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature and subsequently poured at 0°C into 100 mL of an aqueous 2 M HCl solution. The resulting mixture was stirred for 15 min at room temperature, filtered in order to remove the greyish precipitate of Cu₂Cl₂, the ether layer was separated out and the aqueous phase extracted with ether. The combined ethereal extracts were washed with HCl 2 M (100 mL), two times with NaHCO₃ aq. and finally with ether. The resulting organic phase (final volume = 300 mL) was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvents removed in vacuo giving 3.16 g of a dark red oil, which was analysed by GC-MS analysis and ¹H-NMR spectroscopy. The analysis showed the presence of the desired product together with dimers, trimers and tars. The crude product was added of 40 mL of ethanol and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The yellow-orange extract was concentrated in vacuo at 55°C for 4 h to give a dark orange oil (1.92 g), which crystallized by standing at 0°C overnight.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 19, and ending at line 26 with the following paragraph:

AS

--To a stirred solution of 44.26g of 2-methyl-4-bromo-thiophene (0.25 mol) in 300 mL of ether, 164 mL of a 1.6 M solution of *n*-BuLi (0.26 mol) was added at -70°C. The resulting solution was kept under stirring at -60 to -70°C for 30 min and then was treated with 27.4 g of dimethylformamide (0.37 mol) in 100 mL of ether. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, then neutralized with 10% aqueous solution of NH₄Cl, washed with 10% aqueous solution of H₃PO₄ and finally with water up to neutral pH. The organic phase was collected, evaporated off and distilled at 110°C/10mmHg. Yield 22.3 g (71%). The title compound was characterized by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 2, and ending at line 8 with the following paragraph:

A6

--113 mL of 1.6 M *n*-BuLi solution (0.18 mol) was added to a solution of 31.3 g of 2-methyl-4-bromo-thiophene (0.177 mol) in 150 mL of ether at -70°C under stirring. The resulting solution was kept under stirring at -60 to -70°C for 30 min and then was added of 22.3 g of 2-methyl-4-formyl-thiophene (0.177 mol) in 100 mL of ether. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, then neutralized with 10% aqueous solution of NH₄Cl and washed with water. The organic phase was separated out and evaporated off (crude bis(2-methyl-4-thienyl)methanol or 2,2'-dimethyl-4,4'-dithienyl carbinol).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 9, and ending at line 15 with the following paragraph:

A7

--A suspension of 35.5 g of AlCl₃ (0.266 mol) in 100 mL of ether was added slowly to a suspension of 10 g of LiAlH₄ (0.266 mol) in 100 mL of ether. The resulting mixture was treated with the solution of the carbinol obtained as above described in 100 mL ether. Then the reaction mixture was refluxed for additional 1 h, cooled up to room temperature and finally added of 100 mL of ethyl acetate. After it was treated with 300 mL of water and 300 mL of ether. The organic phase was collected, washed with water, dried over

A7 MgSO₄ and evaporated off. The residue was distilled at 90 to 110°C/0.5 mmHg. Yield 23.2g (63%).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 41, line 2, and ending at line 7 with the following paragraph:

A8 --A suspension of 1.0g(3.22mmol) of 2,2-(cyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)propane in 20ml ether was treated with 4.1ml (6.5mmol) 1.6M BuLi at -70°C. The mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C and then was treated with 0.75g (3.2mmol) ZrCl₄. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux within 3h, then the yellow precipitate was filtered, washed twice with ether, dried and then recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂. Yield 1.37g (90%).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 41, line 23, and ending at page 42, line 6 with the following paragraph:

A9 --2.3 mL of 1.6 M *n*-BuLi solution (3.7 mmol) was added at -70°C to a suspension of 0.6 g (1.85 mmol) of 2,2-(3-methyl-cyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopenta[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)propane in 20 mL of ether. The mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C and then was treated with 0.43 g (1.85 mmol) of ZrCl₄. The reaction mixture was refluxed under stirring for 3 h, then the yellow precipitate was filtered, washed twice with ether, dried and finally recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂. Yield 0.72 g (80%). The title compound was characterized by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 42, line 11, and ending at line 17 with the following paragraph:

A10 --2.5 mL of 1.6 M *n*-BuLi solution (4.0mmol) was added at -70°C to a suspension of

A10
0.65 g (2.0 mmol) of 2,2-(3-methyl-cyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopenta[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)propane in 20 mL of ether. The mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C and then was treated with 0.64 g (2.0 mmol) of HfCl₄. The reaction mixture was refluxed under stirring for 3 h, then the yellow precipitate was filtered, washed twice with ether, dried and finally recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂. Yield 0.48 g (42%). The title compound was characterized by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 43, line 8, and ending at line 14 with the following paragraph:

A11
--3.75 mL of 1.6 M *n*-BuLi solution (6.0 mmol) was added at -70°C to a suspension of 1.06 g (3.0 mmol) of 2,2-(3-isopropyl-cyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopenta[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)propane in 20 mL of ether. The mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C and then was treated with 0.7 g (3.0 mmol) of ZrCl₄. The reaction mixture was refluxed under stirring for 3 h, then the yellow precipitate was filtered, washed twice with ether, dried and finally recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂. Yield 1.24 g (80%). The title compound was characterized by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 6, and ending at line 12 with the following paragraph:

A12
--3.75 mL of 1.6 M *n*-BuLi solution (6.0 mmol) was added at -70°C to a suspension of 1.11 g (3.0 mmol) of 2,2-(3-tert-butyl-cyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopenta[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)propane in 20 mL of ether. The mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C and treated with 0.7g (3.0 mmol) of ZrCl₄. The reaction mixture was refluxed under stirring for 3 h, then the yellow precipitate was filtered, washed twice with ether, dried and finally recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂. Yield 1.27g (80%). The title compound was characterized by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 45, line 10, and ending at line 16 with the following paragraph:

A13
--A solution of 1-methyl-3-phenyl-1,3-cyclopentadiene (15.62 g, 0.1 mol) in 100 mL of ethanol was treated at low temperature with 8.6 mL (0.12 mol) of acetone and 9.7 mL (0.12 mol) of pyrrolidine. The resulting solution was kept below room temperature overnight. Then the reaction mixture was neutralized with a 10 % aq. solution of H_3PO_4 , extracted with hexane (3 x 50 mL) and washed with water until neutral pH. The organic phase was separated out, dried over $MgSO_4$ and concentrated. The residue was distilled at 85°C/10mmHg. Yield 5.89g (30%). The desired title compound was characterized by 1H -NMR.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 45, line 25, and ending at page 46, line 5 with the following paragraph:

A14
--A suspension of 2.0 g (3.85 mmol) of 2,2-(2-methyl-4-phenyl-1-cyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-trimethylsilylcyclopenta[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)propane in 50 mL of ether was treated at -70°C with 4.8 mL of a 1.6 M *n*-BuLi solution (7.71 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C and added of 0.90 g (3.85 mmol) of $ZrCl_4$. The resulting mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred overnight. Then the brown precipitate obtained was filtered, washed twice with ether, dried and finally recrystallized from CH_2Cl_2 . Yield 1.82 g (70%).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 24, and ending at page 47, line 5 with the following paragraph:

A15
--A solution of 1.05 g (3.22 mmol) of 2,2-(3-isopropyl-cyclopentadienyl)-7-(cyclopenta[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)propane in a mixture of 10 mL of ether and 60 mL of hexane